

NO DATE SCAP
AISC* Argentine Information Service Committee
339 Lafayette St.
New York City 10012

1476
Rec'd 11-22-76

CU163A

This case dealt with
Patricia Erb's statement
at on 11-18-76

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

R

ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1976, PATRICIA ERB, A 19 YEARS OLD NORTH AMERICAN, WAS KIDNAPPED IN ARGENTINA. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING HER IMPRISONMENT WAS DENIED, BUT AFTER EXTENSIVE PRESSURE COMING FROM THE UNITED STATES IT WAS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT THAT SHE WAS BEING DETAINED IN POLICE QUARTERS IN BUENOS AIRES, WHERE SHE WAS THEN AFTER VISITED BY A UNITED STATES COUNSEL. WITHIN A WEEK AFTER HER ARREST MS. ERB WAS DEPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, BEFORE LEAVING ARGENTINA, AND THROUGH AN INTERMEDIATE SOURCE, SHE GAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

THAT SHE WAS TORTURED IN THE MILITARY GARRISON CALLED CAMPO DE MAYO. THERE SHE SAW DOMINGO MENNA, CHAINED AND IN SUCH A STATE THAT IT WAS EVIDENT THAT HE HAD UNDER GONE THE MOST BRUTAL OF TORTURES. THERE ALSO IN THE SAME MILITARY GARRISON SHE SAW LILLIANA DELFINO; ANA MARIA LANCIOTTO, A WOMAN 8 MONTHS PREGNANT; D'ANGELO; EDUARDO RAUL MERBILHA AND ELENA BARBERIS, THE SISTER OF MARIA ESTHER BARBERIS WHO WAS SHOT IN THE CORDOBA PRISON DURING THE FIRST DAYS OF JULY. ALL OF THE ABOVE PRISONERS ARE WELL KNOWN POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO MS. ERB CLAIMS ARE BEING HELD IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY CELL.

INSPIRE OF THE INQUIRIES MADE ON THE PART OF THEIR FAMILIES THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSTANTLY DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR IMPRISONMENT. AS IS EVIDENT FROM PATRICIA ERB'S STATEMENT, THESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE IN A TENUOUS SITUATION AND IN GREAT DANGER OF THEIR LIVES ONLY THROUGH IMMEDIATE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT CAN THEIR LIVES BE SAVED.

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason